

TITLE

A PROCESS FOR FORMING A PHOTOCURABLE ELEMENT HAVING
A LAYER OF PARTICULATE MATERIAL AND AN APPARATUS FOR
PERFORMING THE PROCESS

5

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a process and apparatus for forming a
photopolymerizable element useful as a flexographic printing plate having
at least one layer of particulate material. The process includes forming a
10 layer of a molten photopolymerizable material onto a support; and
applying the particulate material onto an exterior surface of the
photopolymerizable layer opposite the support within 48 hours of forming
the layer of photopolymerizable material. The process optionally includes
15 heating of the surface of the photopolymerizable layer.